



Larson Report

Milwaukee County Supervisor Christopher Larson, 14th District
901 N. 9th Street, Courthouse RM 201, Milwaukee, WI 53233
Phone: 414-278-4252 Fax: 414-223-1380
E-mail: chris.larson@milwcnty.com
Website: <http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/larson>



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E-NEWS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Personnel (Vice-
Chair)

Parks, Energy and
Environment

Transportation,
Public Works and
Transit

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think
county should work
to improve in 2009?

Please call me or
send me an email
with your thoughts.

Dear Constituent,

Happy 2009!

I hope that your holiday season brought you blessings, quality time with your loved ones and some good cheer as well.

My resolution for the new year is to make Milwaukee County Government is more accountable and accessible to the public. I will be working diligently this year to realize a higher level of accessibility for our legislation, voting records and Board activity.

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of the Larson Report. Please don't hesitate to contact me with your ideas, opinions or thoughts on Milwaukee County Government.

In this issue of the Larson Report you'll find:

- 2009 Budget
- NACO Prescription Drug Card
- Website Update
- Milwaukee County Board Picture

2009 Budget

On November 10, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved a 2009 Budget that maintains County services but reversed several proposals by the County Executive to privatize certain functions currently provided by public employees.

Almost 50% of the County Budget is devoted to providing safety net services to the most vulnerable citizens in our community, especially

children, seniors and the mentally ill. I favored funding for our nationally acclaimed County Paramedic program, which provides advanced lifesaving services to our community, and planning for a new and efficient mental health facility to serve our most vulnerable citizens. I also voted for the expansion of the cost-effective Family Care Program in Milwaukee County to begin serving people with disabilities under the age of 60 next year.

I strongly supported funding for public safety and the district attorney. My constituents have told me that Sheriff patrols, especially in the parks, tough drug enforcement and prosecution of criminal activity should be a top priority. But our 15,000 acres of County Parks are also hugely popular, so I pushed to reduce large fee increases proposed for golf, boating and swimming. We must keep our urban recreational pursuits accessible and affordable because they add so much to our quality of life in Milwaukee County. That's why I opposed the installation of parking meters on Lincoln Memorial Drive so that our beautiful lakefront remains uncluttered and open to all. In addition, I helped secure infrastructure improvements at the Milwaukee County Zoo to help keep it one of the best in the country.

The 2009 Budget contains total expenditures of \$1.39 billion and a property tax levy of \$257.6 million, which is a \$7.7 million, or 3.1%, increase from the 2008 Adopted Budget. The property tax rate per \$1,000 of equalized value is \$3.95, which is an increase of seven cents per \$1,000 from 2008. An average Milwaukee home assessed at \$150,000, can expect an increase of approximately \$12 on the County portion of their tax bill.

NACO Prescription Drug Card

Regardless of age or income, any Milwaukee County resident without prescription drug coverage can receive a 20% discount by simply showing their discount drug card at any participating pharmacy. Mail orders are discounted by 50%. To obtain a card, call or e-mail Supervisor Larson at 414-278-4252 or Chris.Larson@milwenty.com. For more information about NACo's free prescription drug discount card, call toll-free 1-877-321-2652 or [click here](#)

Referendum Passed, Now What?:

On Nov. 4, 2008 a majority of Milwaukee County voters passed an advisory referendum in support of a 1 percent sales tax to provide \$67 million in property tax relief and to increase funds for parks, transit, and emergency medical services (EMS).

Want to read more? Check out my article in the [BayView Compass](http://bayviewcompass.com/category/rep-larson/):
<http://bayviewcompass.com/category/rep-larson/>

Milwaukee County Board Picture:



Supervisor Larson and newly sworn in County Clerk Joseph Czarnecki